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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

USA Patent Application  
Herbert Breinich, et al  
Serial No.: 10/021,896  
Filed: December 17, 2001

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Group art unit: 2859

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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Respectfully submitted herewith is a copy of a German Patent  
Office Search Report (3 pages) from the parallel German  
application 100 63 875.9 of which the present application claims  
priority, together with copies of its 7 cited references.

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In the German Patent Office Search Report the references listed  
in category A mean these documents define the general background  
state of the art. The references listed in category Y mean these  
documents place the invention in question with respect to the  
listed claims when these documents are combined with other  
documents. The references listed in category X mean that these  
documents are of particular relevance, and the claimed invention  
cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when these  
documents are taken alone, with respect to the listed claims.

In the German Patent Office Search Report the words "Kategorie"

means category, "Ermittelte Druckschriften/Erläuterungen" means transmitted publications/explanations, "Betrifft Anspruch" means concerning claim, "Anspruch" means claim, "Figur", means Figure or illustration, "siehe restliche Entgegenhaltungen auf Angle 1;", means see remaining references on attachment 1. Since this translation now points out in English the relevant portions of the citations listed in the German Patent Office Search Report, and since the two Patent Abstracts of Japan are in the English language, no further concise explanation is required under 1138 OG 38. Nevertheless please see Figs. and corresponding text of the references for relevance.

A PTO-1449 form is presented listing the 7 submitted references.

Translations of the foreign language references are not available to the undersigned.

This submission meets the requirements of 37 CFR §1.56, 1.97 and 1.98(a) and MPEP 609.

Respectfully submitted

Herbert Breinlich, et al

by: \_\_\_\_\_

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR SECTION 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement, German Patent Office Search Report, 1 PTO-1449 form and 7 references are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on April 18, 2002.

Dated: April 18, 2002

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